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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AF-08 SSM-03 IO-13 AID-05 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01
SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 DODE-00
PM-04 H-01 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-06
/120 W
----------231554 012506 /46
R 231355Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9931
INFO EC COLLECTIVE 168
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 0967

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, EEC
SUBJ: EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE

REF: A) EC BRUSSELS 1435; B) DUBLIN 387(NOTAL)

1. DE HOOP SCHEFFER, AMB AT LARGE IN MFA AND DUTCH REPRESENTATIVE FOR EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE, GENERALLY CONFIRMED IRISH IMPRESSIONS OF TUNIS EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE. HE THOUGHT "BETTER WORKING ATMOSPHERE" HAD DEVELOPED AND THAT SESSION HAD SHOWN GROWING ARAB INTERST IN ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF DIALOGUE. POSTIVE SAUDI ARABIAN ROLE WAS ESPECIALLY NOTEWORTH, AND IN DUTCH JUDGMENT, WAS KEY ELEMENT IN INTERNAL ARAB COORDINATION WHICH WAS DECIDELY BETTER THAN AT LUXEMBOURG. DE HOOP SCHEFFER ALSO SINGLEDOUT PLO REPRESENTATIVES AS MODERATE, CONSTRUCTIVE PARTICIPANT. HE SAID GON REMAINED FIMRLY OPPOSED TO ADDITION OF POLITICAL ELEMENTS IN DIALOGUE BECAUSE EURO-ARAB
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DIALOGUE WAS NOT SUITABLE FORUM FOR NEGOTIATIONS AND LIKELY PROPAGANDA EXCHANGE WOULD ADVERSELY AFFECT POSITIVE ELEMENTS IN DIALOGUE. HE DID NOT EXPECT ANYTHING TO COME FROM EUROPEAN AGREEMENT TO "EXAMINE" ARAB PROPOSAL FOR PEMANENT COMMITTEE FOR POLITICAL CONSULTATION.

2. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION CONCERNING PRESS REPORTS ON LUNCHEON

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WITH FIFTEEN ARAB AMBASSADORS AND THREE KEY MFA OFFICIALS
(HIMSELF, POL DIRECTOR RUTTEN AND ME/AFRICA DIRECTOR VAN DIJL),
DE HOOP SCHEFFER EXPLAINED THAT LUNCHEON WAS ONE OF REGULAR
SERIES HELD AT THREE MONTH INTERVALS. ALL ARAB AMBASSADORS AC-
CREDITED HERE, WHETHER RESIDENT OR OTHERWISE, ATTENDED THESE
LUNCHEONS WHICH PROVIDED OPPORTUNITY FOR GENERAL EXCHANGE OF
VIEES ON ME PROBLEMS. ON THIS OCCASION, HOSTED BY KUWAITI CONSUL
A. RABBANI, DE HOOP SCHEFFER HAD BRIEFED ON TUNIS MEETING.
RESPONDONG TO ANOTHER QUESTION HE SAID QEUSTION OF PLO OFFICE
HERE HAD NOT COME UP AND AGAIN CONFIRMED THAT NO SUCH PLO REQUEST
WAS PENDING. HE KNEW US AND OTHERS CONSIDERED RABBANI WAS PROBABLE
PLO REPRESENTATIVE BUT DUTCH HAD NO CONFIRMING EVIDENCE
SO FAR AS HIS ACTIVITIES HERE WERE CONCERNED. HE ADDED THAT
KUWAITI CONSUL WAS CLEVER BUSINESSMAN WHO OBVIOUSLY HAD MADE
A GOOD THING FINANCIALLY OUT OF HIS ASSOCIATIONS WITH DUTCH
COMPANIES DOING BUSINESS IN THE ARAB WORLD.

3. FOLLOWING PRESS REPORTS OF LUNCHEON AND SPECULATION ABOUT
POSSIBLE PLO REQUEST TO OPEN OFFICE HERE KUWAITI CONSUL TOLD
NEWSMEN IT WAS KNOWN FACT THAT "PLO SERIOUSLY INTENDS TO ES-
TABLISH AN OFFICE IN HOLLAND, HOWEVER IN FULL ACCORDANCE WITH
DUTCH LAW". HE UNDERSTOOD THAT DECISION WOULD BE POLITICAL
ONE TO BE TAKEN BY FONMIN IN CONSULTATION WITH CABINET AND EX-
PRESSED GRATITUDE THAT PLO DID NOT INTEND TO MAKE APPLICATION
FOR OFFICE UNTIL DUTCH GOVERNMENT TOOK DECISION.
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